



Senator Bob

**MORTON**

**7th Legislative District**

**Pre-Session Newsletter**

December 2005

### **How to contact me...**

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(Please include your name and mailing address in the text of your e-mail.)

**Web site:** <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/Senate/SRC/Senators/Morton.htm>

### **Standing Committees**

Water, Energy and Environment, ranking Republican; Natural Resources, Ocean and Recreation; Agriculture and Rural Economic Development

### **Special Committees**

Joint Task Force on Rural Land Use and Economic Development; Western Legislative Forestry Task Force, past chairman; Select Committee of Forest Resources

Dear Neighbors:

The 2006 legislative session is upon us. Although it is a short, 60-day session, we face some of the same challenges as last session. Although revenue projections are looking up, our state still faces a budget problem that if not dealt with properly, using restraint and caution, could force more difficult decisions. Education funding, health care affordability, and energy supply also remain important issues yet to be resolved.

As an elected representative of the people of the 7th Legislative District, I can better do my job with your help. I always welcome input, but frequently it is helpful to send a questionnaire to residents of the district. That way, I can gain a clearer understanding of your opinion on issues facing the Legislature in Olympia, and you can better understand how those issues are framed for debate in Olympia.

It would be invaluable to me if you could please fill out this questionnaire and send it back to me at your earliest convenience. I truly want to hear what you think! Your answers will help me to better represent you in Olympia.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me in Olympia. Cordially yours,

Sen. Bob Morton

# Pre-Session Questionnaire

Record your responses by shading the entire circle of your answer using a blue or black pen. Please do not write in the margins.

Shade circles like this:   
Not like this:  Or this: 

## Budget

Although the state's revenues are slightly up, the cost of many government services and programs have exploded. How would you deal with the dramatic differences in what the state can afford and the state's current obligations (pick two):

- |  | Voter 1               | Voter 2               |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Raise taxes.....  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Cut state programs like health care .....                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. A combination of cutting programs and raising taxes.....  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. A constitutional amendment for a state spending cap ..... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Reimplement a state rainy day fund .....                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Encourage economic development/business growth .....      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Comments:

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## Energy

### Alternative Fuels

Do you believe the state should exempt a portion of alternative fuels like biodiesel and ethanol from the gas tax?

- |                      | Voter 1               | Voter 2               |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yes .....         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. No .....          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. No response ..... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Comments:

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### Keeping the lights on

Overall, what do you think is the best way to accommodate our state's dramatically increasing energy needs?

- |  | Voter 1               | Voter 2               |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Conservation .....  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. More energy production (expand and build more power plants, more alternative energy)..... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Diversify the types of energy we produce (wind, solar, natural gas, nuclear) .....        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. There isn't a problem .....   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Comments:

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## Water

### Priorities

Please prioritize the following according to what you think the state's most important use of water should be (1 being most important and 4 being least important of the four options):

- |   | Voter 1               |                       |                       |                       | Voter 2               |                       |                       |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|   | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     |
| 1. Salmon habitat, .....                                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Irrigation for crops and livestock .....             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Human consumption (drinking, laundry, cooking) ..... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. No response, .....                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Comments:

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### Solutions

Which of the following do you think is the most viable solution for ensuring Washington state has the water resources it needs:

- |  | Voter 1               | Voter 2               |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Build more water storage facilities ..... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Use less water .....                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Outsource farming (agriculture) .....     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. No response .....                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Comments:

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## Salmon

What do you think is the most effective way to restore endangered salmon:

- |   | Voter 1               | Voter 2               |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ensure that more salmon return from the ocean to lay their redds/eggs .....  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Make sure that fewer smolt die .....   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Focus on limiting intrusion of other endangered species that prey on salmon (Caspian Terns, Cormorants, Seals, Sea Lions and Bull Trout) ..... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Comments:

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## Property Rights

Do you believe that government should have the right to condemn private property to sell to the highest bidder for the purposes of economic development?

- |   | Voter 1               | Voter 2               |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yes, anytime .....   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Yes, but only if the property owner is fully compensated ..... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. No .....   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. No response .....  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Comments:**

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## Education



Timber revenues from state forests are dedicated education budget money. Do you believe that those revenues should be returned to the local school district in which the revenues were generated?

- |                      | Voter 1               | Voter 2               |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yes .....         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. No .....          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. No response ..... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Comments:**

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## Health Care

### Health Savings Accounts



Do you think the state should allow people covered under state-funded insurance programs like the Public Employee Benefits Board, the Basic Health Plan and Medicaid to opt out of traditional health insurance plans and into managing their own tax-free Health Savings Accounts to save the state money?

- |                      | Voter 1               | Voter 2               |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yes .....         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. No .....          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. No response ..... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Comments:**

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## Election Reform

Should photo identification be required to register and vote?

- |                      | Voter 1               | Voter 2               |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yes .....         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. No .....          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. No response ..... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Comments:**

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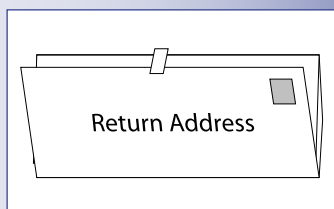
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*Sen. Morton, along with other Legislative leaders, proposes a comprehensive state energy plan at a news conference this fall.*



### Mailing Instructions:

When you have completed your questionnaire, please fold up this document so my return address mail panel is visible, tape the open edge of the questionnaire and affix a first class stamp.

Return mail panel. Tape top edge before mailing.



Place  
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Here

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Other Comments:

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